

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** ~~Refined~~ A refined sesame oil without a bitter taste comprising having a sesamin content of 1% by weight or more of sesamin and 0.2% by weight or less of sesaminol and showing no bitterness, wherein the refined sesame oil is prepared by method comprising (a) extracting sesame oil from unparched sesame seed to produce a extracted sesame oil and (b) (i) bleaching the extracted sesame oil with activated carbon or (ii) bleaching the extracted sesame oil at a temperature from 5°C to 70°C with a clay.

2. **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Currently Amended)** ~~Refined~~ The refined sesame oil of claim 1, comprising having a sesamin content of from 1% to 3% by weight sesamin and a sesaminol content of 0.15% by weight or less of sesaminol.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A method for the production of refined sesame oil without a bitter taste having at least 1% by weight sesamin and not more than 0.2% sesaminol according to Claim 1 or 2, comprising, using active carbon as an absorbent in a bleaching step
milling unparched sesame seeds,
extracting oil from the milled sesame seeds using solvent extraction, and
bleaching the extracted sesame oil with activated carbon or a clay,
wherein the bleaching step is carried out at a temperature from 5°C to 70°C when the bleaching is performed with clay.

5. **(Cancelled)**

6. **(Currently Amended)** ~~[[A]]~~ The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4 1, 2 or 3, comprising controlling a bleaching temperature in a range of from 5 °C to 70 °C in a bleaching step with the use of activated clay of from, wherein 0.1% to 3% by weight clay is used in the bleaching step as an absorbent.

7. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4, wherein the solvent extraction is performed a solvent selected from the group consisting of hexane, diethyl ether, acetone, methanol and ethanol.

8. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4, wherein the solvent extraction is performed with hexane.

9. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4, further comprising removing the clay or activated carbon after the bleaching step.

10. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 9, further comprising deodorizing the bleached sesame oil after the clay or activated carbon is removed.

10. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4, wherein the bleaching step is carried out for about 30 minutes.

11. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4, further comprising treating the extracted sesame oil with alkali before the bleaching step.

12. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4, wherein the bleaching step is carried out at a temperature from 40°C to 70°C with clay.

13. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4, wherein the bleaching step is carried out at a temperature from 60°C to 70°C with clay.

14. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4, wherein 0.5% to 1% by weight clay is used in the bleaching step.

15. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4, further comprising degumming the oil after the extracting step.

16. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to Claim 4, further comprising dewaxing the oil after the bleaching step.

17. **(New)** The refined sesame oil of claim 1, wherein said bleaching is carried out by said step (b)(i).

18. **(New)** The refined sesame oil of claim 1, wherein said bleaching is carried out by said step (b)(ii).

19. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to claim 4, wherein said bleaching is carried out with activated carbon.

20. **(New)** The method for the production of refined sesame oil according to claim 4, wherein said bleaching is carried out with clay.